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# RESEARCH NOTE

## Northern Rocky Mountain Forest & Range Experiment Station

### Missoula, Montana

No. 8 August 1940.

## PRODUCTION OF LUMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS IN IDAHO AND MONTANA, 1939. 1/

The production statistics presented in this summary of returns from Idaho and Montana manufacturers were collected at the census of lumber and timber products for 1939 conducted by the Forest Service in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census. At the time of compilation all operators of record in Montana and Idaho had reported. However, all 1939 figures contained in this statement are preliminary and subject to possible corrections in the final report to be published by the Bureau of the Census.

In 1939, the total lumber cut in Idaho and Montana, by 371 active mills each producing 50 M feet or over, amounted to 945,581 M feet, an increase of 19.4 percent over the combined cut of these two States in 1938. Total production of lath in the two States increased from 48,752 M pieces in 1938 to 49,912 M pieces in 1939. The total quantity of shingles manufactured increased from 40,086 squares in 1938 to 46,536 squares in 1939.

Detailed lumber production statistics by kinds of wood for Montana and Idaho are given in table 1; comparative cut figures for the past three years, in table 2; and lumber stocks on hand at the beginning and end of 1939, in table 3. A summary showing production of the principal round, hewed, and split products in 1939 is given in table 4.

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Table 1.-Lumber cut by species, 1939, M feet b.m.
(Mills cutting 50 M or over)

| Kind of wood | Idaho | Montana | Combined cut | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Volume | Percent |
| Idaho white pine | 365,540 | 29,989 | 395,529 | 41.8 |
| Ponderosa pine | 200,266 | 129,277 | 329,543 | 34.8 |
| Douglas-fir | 52,769 | 39,170 | 91,939 | 9.7 |
| Western larch | 24,619 | 63,698 | 88,317 | 9.4 |
| White fir | 16,025 | 73 | 16,098 | 1.7 |
| Spruce | 5,993 | 5,447 | 11,440 | 1.2 |
| Cedar | 6,241 | 103 | 6,344 | 0.7 |
| Lodgepole pine | 2,080 | 2,202 | 4,282 | 0.5 |
| Hemlock | 1,979 | - | 1,979 | 0.2 |
| All other | 77 | 33 | 110 1/ | - |
| Total | 675,589 | 269,992 | 945,581 | 100.0 |
| Lath, M pieces | 37,382 | 12,530 | 49,912 | |
| Shingles, squares | 36,826 | 9,710 | 46,536 | |

1/ Includes 91 M feet cottonwood, 15 M feet birch, and 4 M feet ash lumber.

In addition to the 371 mills cutting 50 M feet and upward, 68 mills in Idaho and 93 Montana mills reported production amounting to less than 50 M each in 1939. The aggregate additional production reported by these very small mills, not covered by cut figures included in table 1, amounted to 1,707 M for Idaho and 1,917 M for Montana.

Table 2.-Comparative production for 1939, 1938, and 1937, lumber cut M feet b.m.

(Mills cutting less than 50 M feet excluded)

| State | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | Percent of increase or decrease | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1938-1939 | 1937-1938 |
| Idaho | 675,589 | 570,571 | 797,492 | +18.4 | -28.5 |
| Montana | 269,992 | 221,579 | 335,045 | +21.8 | -33.9 |
| Combined cut | 945,581 | 792,150 | 1,132,537 | +19.4 | -30.1 |

During 1939 the total lumber stocks in Idaho and Montana decreased from 516,284 M feet board measure at the beginning of the year to 464,738 M feet board measure on December 31. The following summary includes inventories reported by all mills cutting 50 M feet and upwards:

Table 3.-Summary of lumber stocks

| State | Lumber on hand, M feet board measure: January 1, 1939 | Lumber on hand, M feet board measure: December 31, 1939 | Percent of decrease |
|---|---|---|---|
| Idaho | 383,350 | 336,511 | 12.3 |
| Montana | 132,934 | 128,227 | 3.5 |
| Total | 516,284 | 464,738 | 9.9 |

Summarized production figures for poles and piling, posts, hewed ties, and mine timbers are given in the following table. Considerable quantities of pulpwood and cordwood reported for each State are not included in this preliminary statement.

Table 4.-Production of principal round, hewed, and split products - 1939

| State | Poles and piling | Posts | Hewed ties | Mine timbers |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Linear feet | No. pieces | No. pieces | Linear feet |
| Idaho | 9,585,625 | 276,872 | 105 | 1,042,526 |
| Montana | 806,685 | 155,168 | 5,733 | 3,281,262 |
| Total | 10,392,310 | 432,040 | 5,838 | 4,323,788 |

For all of these products except fence posts, the quantities shown in this summary are considerably lower than those reported for 1937, the latest preceding census at which statistics for such products were collected.